

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 388  
By Rice

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach LaDonna McClain and the 1995-1996 Austin Peay State University women's basketball team on winning the Ohio Valley Conference regular season and tournament championships.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize state teams which are a credit to their university and to their communities; and

WHEREAS, with the thunderous applause of their numerous fans and hardwood enthusiasts, the 1995-1996 Austin Peay State University women's basketball team has recently completed a memorable season, being the regular season Ohio Valley Conference co-champion and winning the OVC tournament title; and

WHEREAS, this was the first-ever regular season OVC crown for the Lady Governors; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Governors won a school regular season record 13 victories against tough OVC competition, beating Tennessee State University twice, 71-57 and 75-53; Southeast Missouri twice, 81-50 and 64-50; Eastern Kentucky twice, 75-72 and 78-67; Murray State twice, 65-63 and 66-58; Tennessee-Martin twice, 87-74 and 75-69; Tennessee Tech 59-52; Morehead State 91-73 and Middle Tennessee State 81-67, with only 3 losses; and

WHEREAS, at the OVC Tournament, they impressively defeated Eastern Kentucky 70-56 and Middle Tennessee State 69-60 to win their first-ever OVC Tournament title; and

WHEREAS, this was also their first-ever appearance in the prestigious NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, their enviable overall record included a school record 21 victories and only 8 losses, a winning percentage of .720; and

WHEREAS, Austin Peay has won this season on the strength of a tough defense, tenacious rebounding and a balanced offensive attack. For the second straight season, the Lady Governors lead the OVC in rebounding. They limited their opponents to 37.9 percent shooting, with no opponent shooting better than 47.1 percent against them; and

WHEREAS, **Coach LaDonna McClain** did an excellent job and was selected the 1995-1996 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year. Her capable staff included **Assistant Coach Sheryl Krmpotich** and **Assistant Coach Marcus Payne**; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: junior guard **Simone Caldwell**, OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player and an Honorable Mention All-OVC selection; senior guard **Sonia White**, an OVC All-Tournament and second team All-OVC choice; senior forward **Sonja Cox**, who reached the 1,000 career point plateau and was named All-OVC Tournament and Honorable Mention All-OVC; and senior guard **Carrie Thompson**, who also scored over 1,000 points in her collegiate career and was an honorable mention All-OVC honoree; and

WHEREAS, the other players were: seniors **Wendi Kincaid** and **Stephanie Shelton**, junior **Colleen Polzin**; sophomores **Bridgett Robbins** (redshirt), **Natalie Bukovick**, **Tracey Drechsel**, **Amanda Behrenbrinker** and **Heaven Hayden**; and freshmen **Angelica Suffren**, **Rhonda Neely** and **Julie Virta**; each of whom contributed to the team's success; and

WHEREAS, **Sports Information Director Chris Belvin**, **trainer Valerie Daniel** and **manager Lexie Bynum** have been very supportive; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this notable team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach LaDonna McClain and the 1995-1996 Austin Peay State University women's basketball team on winning both the Ohio Valley Conference regular season and tournament championships, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the coach, the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.